



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Sacramento District, 1325 J Street
Sacramento, California 95814-2922

Public Notice of Application for Permit

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: March 30, 2007
EXPIRATION DATE: April 20, 2007
REFERENCE NUMBER: SPK-2007-281-GB
WATERWAY NAME: Dry Creek (an ephemeral stream channel)

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the attached plan. This notice is to inform interested parties of the proposed activity and to solicit comments. This notice may also be viewed at the Corps web site at <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory.html>.

APPLICANT: Garfield County Regional Airport
Contact: Mr. Brian Condie
375 County Road 352
Rifle, Colorado 81650
Telephone: (970) 625-1091

AGENT: Barnard Dunkelberg & Company
Contact: Mr. Brad Rolf
1743 Wazee Street, Suite 400
Denver, Colorado 80202
Telephone: (303) 825-8844

LOCATION: The project site is located approximately 3.5 miles southeast of the Town of Rifle within Sections 14 and 18, Township 6 South, Range 93 West, south of Interstate 70, Garfield County, Colorado, and can be seen on the Rifle USGS Topographic Quadrangle.

WORK: The applicant is proposing to expand an existing runway at the Garfield County Regional Airport. The proposed project will impact approximately 4,515 linear feet of Dry Creek, an ephemeral channel. Approximately 250 cubic yards of clean earthen fill material, in a 0.31-acre area (4,515' long x 3' wide x 0.50' deep), will be placed below Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) of Dry Creek. The applicant proposes to mitigate impacts to waters of the United States by re-aligning the creek near the existing channel.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the project is to upgrade the Regional Airport facility to meet Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) design standards for Airport Reference Code (ARC) D-III requirements related to increased use by business jet traffic. To meet FAA requirements for this classification of traffic, airport runway and associated facilities must meet certain clearances including the Runway Safety

Areas (RSAs). A portion of Dry Creek is within the proposed upgrade area and must be filled in order to meet clearances.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Mitigation: The Corps requires that applicants consider and use all reasonable and practical measures to avoid and minimize impacts to aquatic resources. If the applicant is unable to avoid or minimize all impacts, the Corps may require compensatory mitigation. The applicant is proposing to re-establish the storm flow function of the channel by creating 3,381 feet of new channel south of the existing channel designed to carry a 100-year flood event. The applicant states the goal of the mitigation for impacts to waters of the U.S. associated with the loss of the ephemeral drainage is 1) replacement of an ephemeral channel adjacent to the current channel, 2) creation of a composite channel comprised of a main channel capable of conveying the 100-year flood event and a low-flow channel, and 3) creation of the function associated with the ephemeral channel which, in this case, is the conveyance of water.

The relocated low-flow channel is designed to carry 210 cubic feet/second with a bottom width of 8 feet, a depth of 3 feet and side slopes of 2.5:1. An overbank area is designed to accommodate additional discharge during large storm events. The secondary channel has a minimum width of 28 feet (Figures 9 and 10). The slopes of the secondary channel banks will be 3:1. The longitudinal slope will have grade control structures that will reduce overall grade to approximately 0.6 percent over 3,381 feet. The grade control structures will consist of lifts with stilling basins. Opportunities for a longer channel based on increased meandering are not possible within the available space. The expansion of the Airport infrastructure and the location of CR 319 and 346 prohibit construction of a longer channel.

Environmental Setting: The airport site supports two main drainages. Dry Creek is located in the south and southwestern portion of the airport and Mamm Creek is located on the eastern side of the airport. One wetland, located adjacent to Mamm Creek supports emergent vegetation. Dry Creek supports no wetland areas and is dominated by a greasewood vegetative community at the creek's upper terrace. Annual grasses such as cheatgrass and annual forbs including mustards and chenopods dominate the greasewood understory.

Dry creek (6,962 feet long within the project area) is an ephemeral drainage that flows from the White River Forest to the Colorado River. It carries storm flow waters and irrigation runoff. The incised low-flow channel is approximately 2.5 to 4 feet deep at OHWM and about 10-15 feet wide from top-of-bank to top-of-bank. Depth of water at OHWM is approximately 0.50 foot.

Alternatives: The applicant has provided some information regarding minimization of impacts to Dry Creek. The applicant states that changes were made to the extent of embankment fill (fill slope) area on the west end and various relocations of Garfield County Road (CR) 319 and 346. Alternatives to fill slope areas for the Runway 8/26 construction do not allow for sufficient upgrades. Alternatives to the relocation of CR 319 and 346 sustain the same impacts to Dry Creek (Figures 11 and 12). While the first alternative shows three box culverts required for the proposed relocated Dry Creek, the preferred and second alternative show two box culverts required for the proposed relocated Dry Creek. The preferred alternative (Figure 12) also allows for 3:1 embankments at the west end near Dry Creek for the upgraded runway and taxiway. The 3:1 slope may be suitable for revegetation.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Water quality certification or a waiver, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division is required for this project. **The applicant has not indicated they have applied for certification.**

HISTORIC OR CULTURAL RESOURCES: Based upon the available information, historic and/or cultural resources have been identified adjacent to the project's area of potential effects. The Corps will not be consulting with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office but will use the lead federal

agency's (FAA) consultation information in fulfillment of our Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act obligations.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project will not affect any Federally-listed threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitat, that are protected by the Endangered Species Act.

The above determinations are based upon information provided by the applicant and our preliminary review.

EVALUATION FACTORS: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all those factors, which become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur, are therefore determined by the outcome of the general balancing process. That decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the USACE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. Please note that all comment letters received are subject to release to the public through the Freedom of Information Act.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach the office identified below no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please submit comments to Mr. Mark Gilfillan, Project Manager at the US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, Colorado/Gunnison Basin Regulatory Office, 400 Rood Avenue, Room 142, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501-2563. You may contact Mr. Gilfillan at telephone number (970) 243-1199, extension 15 or by electronic mail at: Mark.A.Gilfillan@usace.army.mil, if further information is desired concerning this notice.

AUTHORITY: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344)

Attachments: 19 Maps and Drawings